

Arise News Coverage of Climate Change Issues in South West Nigeria

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Abstract

The researchers examined media coverage of climate change and similarly relevant issues in South Western Nigeria with a focus on coverage, prominence, media attention and story formats attributed to the issues under review. Editions of Arise News' *The Morning Show* and *Global Business Report* between August and November, 2021 were content-analysed. Results revealed that the broadcast channel gave a fair degree of attention to climate change issues; with much credence to climate change as regards sensitisation and coverage of human-induced climate change issues such as oil spillage, gas flaring and green-house emissions. However, the researcher concluded that not enough coverage was allotted to reporting these issues given their relevance to the welfare of the citizenry and implication on economic balance and imbalance. Consequent upon the above, it was concluded that considering the strategic effects broadcast media can have in driving cultural and technological development, Nigerian broadcast stations should be more conscious in their reportage of climate change issues in ways that the discourse would clearly interpreted. The researcher recommended that governments of developing countries such as Nigeria should work to develop climate financing policies with which adaptation plans will be coasted to manage natural climate change occurrences.

Keywords: Broadcast Media, Climate Change, Environmental Risk, Risk Communication

Introduction

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have shaped earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed effects that are typical with the term. Environmental issues have become

important in the world for decades. National governments as well as the United Nations have taken steps to increase the level of awareness and attention paid to problems of air and water pollution, deforestation, desertification, green-house gas emission, global warming and climate change. These problems have necessitated a number of summits, conferences, conventions and declarations. The world at large is experiencing uncertain times; with the struggle to grapple with COVID-19 pandemic being the height of it. However, there are many other critical discourses, like climate change that similarly have high degrees of impact on the well-being of peoples. Through time, mass media coverage has proven to be a key contributor– among a number of other factors– that has affected science and policy discourse as well as public understanding, interpretation and action. Mass media representational practices have broadly affected translations between science and policy and have shaped perceptions of various issues of environment, technology and risk.

More specifically, broadcast media representations, ranging from news to entertainment, are critical links between the everyday realities of how people experience certain issues and the ways in which these are discussed at a distance between science, policy and public actors. Many studies have shown time and time again that the general public often learn about science and topical issues from the media. Bashir (2015) posits that climate change poses security threats to societies because of its impact on resources like rainfall, water availability, food production and population distribution. Nigeria, like many other countries, is vulnerable to climate change impact, especially in the areas of land use, water resources, agriculture, energy, biodiversity, habitat among others (Asemah & Amah, 2021). Nigeria is vulnerable to climate change owing to its long coastline, rain-fed agriculture, high population, drought and desert prone land, threatened water resources, inadequate financial and technology capacity and lack of robust climate change institutional and legal framework (Nigeria Environmental Study/Action Team, NEST, 2004, cited in Ugande & Asemah, 2014).

Jackson (2020) explains that climate change is the periodic modification of earth's climate change brought about as a result of changes in the atmosphere as well as interactions between the atmosphere and various other geologic, chemical, biological and geographic factors within the Earth system. For Nigeria which remains a Third World country, it is pertinent to examine the phenomenon of human-induced climate change and underlying factors such as waste management, building sites, drainage and so on. In recent years, the areas under review in the Southwestern Nigeria – Lagos State and Ogun State have recorded multiple cases of change in the level of the rivers due to sea level rise, periods of heavy and continuous rainfall which results in groundwater flooding and consequently, property and infrastructural damage. In most parts of South-western Nigeria, encroachment of water banks due to development, urban growth and population growth is prevalent. Other causes of flooding are: deforestation, urbanisation, lack of good drainage or blocked waterways and river overflow and inadequate land use planning (Bamisaie, 2019). The most pronounced flooding was caused when heavy rainfall resulting into water overflowing the two

Nigeria's main rivers – the Niger and the Benue which affected 34 of the country's 36 states, causing 141 deaths and 265 injuries, loss of properties worth millions of naira and destruction of agricultural produce.

The impacts of climate change and climate risk affect every part of society, so communicating that risk in order for various facets of society to plan adequately for climate change adaptation, is an important climate communication practice. The media are agents of social change that can bring about positive attitudinal change in audience (Asemah, 2009; Asemah, 2011a; Asemah, 2011b). For the broadcast media, this duty of risk communication examines possible risks and looks to raise awareness of those risks to persuade behavioural changes to relieve threats in the long term. Based on the premises above, the study is set to examine Arise News' coverage of climate change in South Western Nigeria with a focus on Lagos State and Ogun State.

Statement of the Problem

A growing belief in science journalism is that public uncertainty and skepticism towards modern science and technology, including environmental issues, is caused by a lack of sufficient knowledge about relevant subjects and issues. Often, these grey areas as reviewed in this study degenerate into environmental crises and monumental losses. Buckley, Duer, Mendel & Siochru (2011), cited in Azubuike (2019) contend that broadcasting retains a position of enormous influence over social, cultural and political activities in nearly all parts of the world. Broadcast media have served the function of instant reportage of environmental and health issues as they happen. The broadcast media have also embraced media convergence, thereby integrating new media channels to encourage citizen journalism. Regretfully, broadcast media coverage of this discourse has not been able to drive climate change mitigation or adaptation. Wealth of literature has shown that simply giving more information to people does not necessarily spur them to action. How much have broadcast media driven various actors in the society including scientists, the public, international organisations and governments to pay optimal attention to causes, dynamics and effects of climate change and how informed are members of the public on activities that result in human-induced climate change? The crux of this study is to answer these questions by analysing Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in two high impact states in South Western Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

This researcher sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Ascertain the frequency of Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in South Western Nigeria.
2. Determine the level of prominence attributed to Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in South Western Nigeria.
3. Identify the story formats used in Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in South Western Nigeria.

Climate Change and the Environment

Man's activities take place in, and to a great extent, are made possible by the environment. This implies that without the environment, man will cease to exist. As such, the establishment of a healthy and functional plan to preserve and protect the environment has become the beginning of wisdom. The nature and prospects of the future are determined by the safety of the environment. The numerous environmental problems being experienced in the world today are further strengthening activities towards protection of the environment. Nwabueze (2015) posits that apart from natural causes of environmental problems and climate change, man has contributed a great deal to the menace of environmental uncertainty. The issues of greenhouse emission, oil spill pollution, gas flaring, toxic waste dumping, deforestation, indiscriminate dumping of refuse, water and air pollution, are among many contributions of man to environmental degradation. Environmental communication remains a critical aspect of the need to make man aware of the dynamics of his environment. It entails the application of communication principles and strategies in keeping man abreast of and awake to environmental concerns. According to Oyero, Oyesomi, Abioye & Ajiboye (2018), climate change effect has been phenomenal on the society, the blame which goes to both the most industrialised societies of the world as well as the 'less industrialised' because they are contributors to the factors causing climate change. This means that the responsibility for a safe environment must be borne by all and sundry at all levels— national, regional and community; it is on this basis that it is important to understand the practices contributory to climate change in order to develop relevant communication interventions to alter people's behaviour in favour of the environment and mitigate climate change effects.

Mass Media and Coverage of Climate Change in African Nations

Climate change is an observed shift in the weather patterns or average temperatures of the earth often to a large scale. It is caused by man-made factors (burning of fossil fuel such as coal and oil for energy and unchecked pollution leading to trapping of excess carbon in Earth's atmosphere; the trapped excess carbon heats up and alters the earth's climate patterns) or natural factors (such as volcanic eruption, variations in solar radiation to the earth and changes in earth's orbit). Climate change comes with disastrous effects such as heat waves, wild fires, droughts, flooding, tropical storms of all kinds and various extreme weather conditions. This negatively affects the economy, agriculture, health and other facets of life directly or indirectly. Global warming is often used interchangeably with climate change.

Over the past 50 years, evidence has emerged that human activities affecting the climate have accumulated inexorably and with it has come ever greater certainty across the scientific community about the reality of recent climate change (IPCC, 2007, cited in Egbra, 2014). This depicts potential for much greater change in the future if unchecked. Scientists are confident now, more than ever that humans have interfered greatly with the climate and that further human-induced climate change is on the way.

According to Aniegbunam (2010), cited in Nwabueze (2015), climate change by nature is not a front page subject except when there is a strong local, political and economic dimension to it, which is commonly the case in the African continent. The issue of climate change cannot be ignored because of its numerous implications especially on the African continent. According to Taylor (2011), framing is important in terms of how a message is shared and how it is received. Also, frames and agenda regulate how the society shapes reality. Furthermore, agenda setting captures the way in which policy makers and elites receive and then formulate (frame) science information, which is then presented by the media following their inbuilt structural framing devices.

Environmental Communication in Nigerian Mass Media: Opinion Reviews

The Nigerian mass media play their basic roles of information, education and entertainment in the society. The information role includes information on environmental or green issues in the nation and in the global scene. When incidents with great significance to the environment and to the health of people take place in the society, the media expose such incidents and make the public aware of them. The basic questions then are—what is the nature of media coverage of environmental issues in Nigeria? Do the media give adequate coverage to the environment in view of their vital place in human existence? Even when the media cover environmental news, what is the nature of message content of the coverage? Can it be described as purposeful and capable of achieving societal change towards ensuring an environmentally sustainable nation? Oso (2006), cited in Nwabueze (2015) asserts that mass media attention to the environment has been described as a relatively recent development in Nigeria, with other issues such as business, finance, information technology (IT) and politics receiving more priority.

Umeje (2010), cited in Herbert, Abdullahi & Ashong (2013) observes that the media in Nigeria appear to be relatively aloof in matters of creating awareness on climate change issues, that Nigeria risks the ravages of global challenges posed by climate change. In his assessment, the Nigerian media seem to lag behind in awareness campaign on climate change and tend to leave it for individuals. This is a worrisome development because the media shape social norms and value systems and also influence people's decision-making in ways that foster a more environmentally friendly culture could be imparted or inculcated into a people's culture. Umeje's position is that most Africans are not informed on climate change and that the media have the urgent duty to assume a prominent role in creating awareness on the issues.

Speaking of Nigeria's environmental situation specifically, the UN Report (2020) of the UNDP provides the following indices on Nigeria as they relate to the environment and climate change: Nigeria flares more gas than any other country. Methane produced from gas flaring is said to be over 70 times as active a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of forest loss (3.5%) in the world. The country is said to have lost well over 6.1 million hectares or 35.7% of its forest cover since 1990. Deforestation and environmental degradation generally cost

Nigeria six billion US dollars every year as timber concession are granted indiscriminately and oil palm plantations replace national forests.

Broadcast Media and Climate Change Communication

Broadcast media have been identified primarily as channels for prompt delivery of information through carefully select and designed programmes covering news, information and music. It is essentially to inform, educate, entertain, project culture, break down barriers and reduce the world to a global village (Ogunyombo, 2016). Climate change is not just an environmental problem, it is also a developmental issue because its negative effects severely affect poorer countries whose economies are largely based on natural resources, leading to unemployment, crime and insecurity (Jegede, Adejuwon, Olowookere & Elegbeleye, 2016). But again, the countries with more diversified economies are equally liable to climate change impacts. It is, therefore, important that all hands must be on deck by all countries to promote sustainable trends in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), which is the greatest perpetrator of climate change.

According to Asemah (2011), one of the cardinal functions of mass media is to educate people. He also buttressed that people turn to media for learning and self-education. Similarly, the importance of communication and media in increasing awareness about the outcomes of climate change has been recognised by governments and a few civil society organisations (Harris, 2014). Thus, information dissemination is significant in bringing people to understand the import of climate change. Stressing this significance further, dissemination of information via the use of media technology is crucial to understanding the hazard, effect and adaptation alternatives that climate change presents to the livelihood and survival of citizens in Nigeria in particular and the entire world in general.

Empirical Studies

Many studies have examined coverage of climate change issues on a global scale and in Nigeria and other parts of the world. Mare (2011) examined climate change mediation and mediatisation in Southern Africa. Mare studied Southern African newspapers and found that while climate change reports tended to generalise impact, they were also not reflective of urgency. Also, studies concluded that the patterns of newspaper reports were negative, event-based, official-centred and buried in the inside pages. The reports also gave little South African context, but were instead framed as a duel between North and South nations, were foreign sourced, biased against women, and shut out common people. Apparently, masses rely quite heavily on the media to experience what they have not encountered in the physical realm. However, the media do not present us with thoughts but furnish us with what to have thoughts about such as climate change issues. To this end, Mare explains that in modern societies, the media are an indispensable avenue of obtaining information and are crucial in molding awareness and concern as far as climate change issues go. Thus, lack of interpretation

of climate change reports in South African newspapers contributed in the knowledge deficiency of relevant issues. In congruity with this study, under-reportage of climate change issues cannot be overlooked and more room should be given to environmental experts, health practitioners and policy makers to contribute to the discourse both in the print and broadcast media.

Takahashi (2011), after a study of mass media coverage of climate change in Peru during the Fifth Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Summit in May 2008 found that the media relied mostly on government sources, giving limited access to dissenting voices such as environmentalists. The findings further revealed a prominence of “solutions” and “effects” frames while “policy” and “science” frames were limited. Just like in what is evident in Nigeria, newspapers in Peru reported more of the effects of climate change rather than policy issues on the matter. Asemah & Amah (2021) carried out a study titled “setting agenda for under-reported issues in Nigeria” and found that climate change is one of the non-negotiable issues which are under-reported in Nigeria; alongside other issues such as human rights, child’s rights, women’s rights, rural areas, indigenous culture, human trafficking and social innovations. The researchers posited that the mass media are crucial to opinion formation and eventual outcomes of events. This is in consonance with the highlighted role of mass media in coverage of climate change issues. Moser (2016) studied reflections on climate change communication research and practice in the second decade of the 21st century and found that public awareness and understanding of climate change risks are integral to the bid to secure support for public measures and to encourage and enable spontaneous adaptation by households, communities, groups and private enterprises. She further stated that effectively communicating the distant, complex and uncertain phenomenon of climate change is complex, particularly when aiming to empower the most vulnerable communities. This further strengthens the point that climate change should be treated as an all-important issue as it could be a quite intricate discourse, with the impacts thereof still affecting crucial parts of society such as health, agriculture and economy.

For Lassen, Horsbol, Bonnen & Pederson (2011) in their study on climate change discourse and citizen participation, they aimed to closely examine the role of citizen participation in climate change discourse and suggested that three discourses are especially prominent. These are ecological modernisation, green governmentality and civic environmentalism. They opined that beyond discourse, opinions and perceptions are also important because discourses are grounded in knowledge, attitudes, opinions and perceptions. In a study by Oh, Lee & Han (2020), the researchers examined the mediating role of self-relevant emotions and public risk perception and resolved that the role played by broadcast and online media information sources on risk perception has remained relatively unknown. By incorporating this variable, this study further extends the frontiers of empirical knowledge on the determinants of public risk during the occurrence of contagious infections. The study indicates that the variation in the sources of COVID-19 information available through

the media does not significantly influence risk perception or public affective responses towards the disease, contrary to earlier assumptions that personal ties with sources of risk information on available media channels may influence substantially, how online media users perceive and respond to public health risk. Similarly, given the nature of the subject of climate change and surrounding issues as pertinent to risk communication, the media should strongly prioritise being the driving force for parastatals, key actors in society and the government to design coping mechanisms that could help in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on the agenda setting theory and the social responsibility theory. The agenda setting theory was propounded by McCombs & Shaw in 1972. The theory posits that there is a significant relationship between media reports and people's ranking of public issues; most of the issues we think and worry about are those reported by the media (Baran & Davis, 2009; Asemah, Nwammuo & Nkwam-Uwaoma, 2017). The implication of this is that the media determine salience of issues and these issues are in turn considered most important by society. The media accomplish this through frequency of reporting, prominence attributed to reports, media advocacy, etc. As listed by Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso (2008), the agenda setting theory is built on three underlisted principles:

- a. The media do not reflect social reality because news content is ultimately selected, filtered and restructured by pressmen and broadcasters.
- b. People have limited news sources and inevitably rely on the mass media.
- c. Media concentration on a few issues and agenda leads the public to perceive those issues as more important than other issues.

Relating this theory to the study, it is perceived that the prominence the media attribute to climate change issues particularly in areas under review can help influence people's opinion and solicit reformatory action towards the discourse. Also, it will provide clearer understanding and sensitise the public about human-induced climate change and associated risks; which is the core of this study.

The media dependency theory was propounded by Sandra Ball-Rokeach and Melvin DeFleur in 1976. This theory is based on the uses and gratifications theory and ties into the agenda setting theory. Uses and gratifications identify how people use and become dependent upon the media. It also examines how people use the media for many reasons, with information, entertainment, and parasocial relationships being just a few of them (Yarosan & Asemah, 2008; Asemah, 2011; Asemah *et al* 2017). According to Blumler (1979), the dependency theory says the more a person becomes dependent on the media to fulfill these needs, the media will become more important to that individual. The media will also have much more influence and power over that individual. If someone is so dependent on the media for information, and the media is that person's only source for information, then it is easy to set the agenda; this

explains the relationship of this theory to agenda setting theory. The relevance of this theory to this study is that the broadcast media – television and radio, are heavily relied upon for first-hand information over social media and other less traditional channels. The media should then repay this dependence and trust by becoming watchdogs and harbingers of truthful, timely, comprehensive and intelligent accounts of climate change issues and events in contexts which give them meaning and arouse the interest of the public.

Methodology

A quantitative content analysis was employed to study Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in South Western Nigeria. Content analysis as noted by Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekhareafo & Okpanachi (2012) is the study of the manifest contents of documents, newspapers, magazines, radio programmes, television programmes and internet. Two states in South Western Nigeria- Lagos State and Ogun State were purposively selected because they are relatively high impact areas of climate change issues. In analysing Arise News' coverage of these issues, 122 daily editions each of *The Morning Show* and *Global Business Report* on Arise News Channel between August and November, 2021 constituted the study population. This amounted to a total population of 244. These programmes were selected because they are flagship programmes of the Arise News. To attain a representative sample for the study, the composite week sampling, where one day is drawn every week of every month throughout the study period was used. This resulted in a sample size of 16 editions for each of the programmes and a total of 32 editions for both programmes. Riffe, Aust & Lacy (1993), cited in Okoro & Anho (2015) said the composite week sampling technique is superior to random sampling and the consecutive day sampling techniques as the required analyses is reduced by compositing several samples into one and analysing the composited sample. The instrument for data collection was the coding sheet which contained all relevant content categories such as frequency, prominence, story formats and tone of reports. The units of analysis were news, documentaries interviews and special reports on climate change. Descriptive statistics involving frequencies and percentages were used to analyse the data obtained and the data were presented in the form of tables for easy understanding.

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this section, data obtained are presented and analysed with a view to drawing inferences and conclusions. In total, all 26 out of 32 editions sampled for the study had climate change coverage while 6 editions (*The Morning Show* - 4 and *Global Business Report* - 2) had no coverage. The data are presented in the tables below, in line with the research questions.

Table 1: Frequency of Arise News' Coverage of Climate Change Issues in South West Nigeria

Programme	Number of stories covered	%
<i>The Morning Show</i>	194	73%
<i>Global Business Report</i>	71	27%
Total	265	100%

The above data show the frequency of coverage of climate change issues on both programmes within the period of study. Comparatively, a significant difference can be observed in the coverage of climate change issues by the two programmes; with *The Morning Show* having a total number of 194 stories covered by the weeks compositely sampled, representing 73% while *Global Business Report* had 71 stories representing 27%. A closer look at the raw data revealed that most of climate change issues in South West Nigeria reported across the study period were covered on *The Morning Show* and much less on *Global Business Report*.

Table 2: Level of Prominence attributed to Coverage of Climate Change Issues in South West Nigeria by Arise News

Duration	<i>The Morning Show</i>	<i>Global Business Report</i>	Combined Total %
Less than 5 minutes	59 (35%)	36 (51%)	95(36%)
5 to 15 minutes	89 (46%)	22 (31%)	111 (42%)
16 to 30 minutes	30 (15%)	9 (12%)	39 (15%)
Over 30 minutes	16 (8%)	4 (6%)	20 (7%)
Total	194 (100%)	71 (100%)	265 (100%)

The above data show the level of prominence attributed to Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in terms of duration of the coverage. Evidently, on *The Morning Show*, 59 of the stories (35%) dedicated less than 5 minutes to the discourse, with 89 stories representing 46% lasting between 5 and 15 minutes; 30 stories (15%) lasted between 16 and 30 minutes and 16 of the reports lasted over 30 minutes. For global business report, a difference is observed in that 36 of the stories representing 51% of total airtime lasted less than 5 minutes, with 22 stories (31%) lasting between 5 and 15 minutes; 9 stories representing 12% lasted 16-30 minutes and 4 stories (6%) lasted over 30 minutes.

Table 3: Story Formats predominantly used in Arise News' Coverage of Climate Change Issues in South West Nigeria

Story format	<i>The Morning Show</i>	<i>Global Business Report</i>	Total %
Straight News	71(37%)	22 (31%)	93 (35%)
Documentary	33(17%)	13 (18%)	46 (19%)
Interview	55 (28%)	20 (28%)	75 (28%)
Special report	35 (18%)	16 (23%)	51 (19%)
Total	194 (100%)	71 (100%)	265 (100%)

Research question three sought to identify the story formats adopted in Arise News' coverage of climate change issues in South Western Nigeria. A sizeable degree of the

stories; 93 representing 35% was presented as straight news and this was followed by interview that had 75 (28%). Documentaries had 46 (19%) while special reports had 51 (19%). Although, the researcher did not dominant theme as one of the units of analysis, it is vital to observe that themes such as emissions, global warming, gas flaring, renewable energy and coastal areas were dominantly used especially across the stories covered on *The Morning Show*.

Discussion of Findings

The study focused on Arise TV coverage of climate change issues in South West Nigeria from August to November, 2021. The general aim was to ascertain how much the media have helped in bringing discourse on climate change and other issues to the fore. It is believed that the level of seriousness that governments at different levels, political circles, scientists, researchers, development strategists and individuals attach to the discourse depends on the agenda set by the media. From the analysed data, it was observed that the media gave attention to coverage of climate change issues, particularly in Lagos and Ogun states of Nigeria. Clearly, 26 out of 32 sampled editions had a total of 265 stories on climate change issues with COP 26 (2021 UN Climate Change Conference) which aims to shape climate negotiations among countries, being at the center of it. This outcome is strikingly consistent with similar studies conducted by various scholars which revealed that the tide is changing from climate change being an under-reported issue in Nigerian media to being a prime issue (Herbert, Abdullahi & Ashong, 2013). The reason for this is that Nigeria, being a contributor to climate change cannot escape the effects of climate change. This makes the discourse on climate change both at political and media circles cogent and important now. This finding is in consonance with the assumption of the media dependency theory, which posits that the more a person becomes dependent on the media to fulfill certain needs, the media will become more important to that individual. Since many persons are now so dependent on the media for information, and the media is their primary source of veritable information, then it is easy to prime climate change reports and set agenda.

Regarding prominence, it was generally observed that not a great degree of prominence was given to coverage of climate change issues particularly in terms of duration of the discourse. While a total of 111 stories (42%) lasted 5 to 15 minutes on both sampled programmes, 95 stories, similarly representing 36% lasted less than 5 minutes which is relatively not enough time for in-depth discussion of climate change issues. More specifically also, the researcher observed a trend of sparse coverage of these issues on *Global Business Report* which tends to indicate that the media are failing yet to draw a nexus between climate change and its implications on business, market and economy. A closer look at raw data also revealed prominence being given to Lagos over Ogun state and indeed, other states in South Western Nigeria such as Osun state, Oyo state and others. As underlined by the agenda setting theory, the media are able to determine salience of issues through frequency of reporting and prominence attributed to reports; hence, a total of 78% for 1-15 minutes of coverage time in contrast

to 22% for 16-30 minutes of coverage time shows that the media could do more to enhance media concentration on climate change issues and lead people to perceive the discourse as ultimately important. Furthermore, the findings showed that various story formats were deployed in the coverage of climate change issues within the period investigated. However, straight news was predominantly used on both programmes, followed by interviews. Though *The Morning Show and Global Business Report* have done well in adopting various formats in reporting issues on climate change, the researcher perceives that their dominant use of straight news portrays a lack of in-depth investigation on these issues, and consequently, adequate knowledge to educate the populace.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The researchers conclude that the adverse effect and overwhelming danger of climate change in Nigeria cannot be attributed to inadequate coverage since the outcome of the analysis revealed that the television news programmes paid a great degree of attention to issues of climate change in South Western Nigeria. This is most noticeable by the development within the last two months of the period investigated; October and November, when the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) chose Arise News Channel as partners to host the conversation on the 2021 UN Climate Conference in November.

Before this development, however, much depth was not given to many of the reports. The researchers reckon that the predominant use of straight news by the sampled programmes did not give much depth to the stories as much as documentaries and interviews did. Interviews with experts within the nation and across the globe made stories more relatable, thereby, conveying more interest and influence; sampled stories on these issues also showed evidence of formation of government policies in time past, but with little or no implementation, which is alarming and slows significant development. Consequently, the following recommendations are hereby given:

1. The coverage of climate change issues and other environmental risk discourses should go beyond straight news as revealed in this study and many others. Much more attention should be given to other news formats such as interviews and news documentaries involving environmentalists, scientists, development communicators and health experts who are in position to give valid and accurate information.
2. The media should pay more attention to themes of land use and deforestation which are key areas. As a nation which is very reliant on her agricultural activities, people cut down forests for agriculture/cooking. However, the media could pay attention to how people could use less land for agriculture by integrating forest into land use.
3. The impact of climate change issues on business and economy as analysed is too damning to be sparsely discussed. With the reality of climate change and issues

such as drought and rising sea levels, adaptation plans should be costed for farmers and coastal town residents.

4. The media should design forums to interface with key actors in the government with a view to making them committed to help Nigeria reduce its gas emissions and set in motion, the transition to go green.

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